

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

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TO:

Board of Education

FROM:

Anthony Smith, Ph.D., Superintendent

Silke Bradford, Ed.D., Coordinator, Office of Charter schools

DATE:

May 22, 2013

RE:

Aspire College Academy

Charter Petition Request

Legislative File

File ID No .: 13-0580

Introduction Date: 3/13/13

Enactment No.: 13-08
Enactment Date: 5-22-

By:

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve the petition and charter to establish Aspire College Academy as an OUSD authorized charter school that serves grades K-5. The petition presents a sound educational program; the petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition; the petition contains the required signatures and affirmations; and the petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the 16 elements required by the California Charter Schools Act.

#### SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the OUSD Board of Education approve the petition for Aspire College Academy to serve students in grades K-5, to begin operation as an OUSD authorized charter school on July 1, 2013. Staff recommends approval based on the following:

- 1) The school currently operates within the boundaries of OUSD
- 2) 93% of the students at the school are Oakland residents
- 3) Due diligence conducted to ensure that the establishment of the charter is consistent with sound educational practices

#### PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

- 1) The lead petitioner submitted a petition for the Aspire College Academy on March 13, 2013 at a regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.
- 2) A public hearing was held on March 27, 2013. Representatives from the lead petitioning group, including parents of prospective students, presented.
- 3) Staff conducted a site visit on April 17, 2013.
- 4) Staff conducted Petitioner Interviews on May 1, 2013.

#### STATUTORY BACKGROUND

#### Pursuant to Education Code §47605:

Charter law outlines the criteria governing the approval or denial of charter school petitions. The following excerpt is taken from the Charter Schools Act, Education Code §47605. This excerpt delineates charter approval and denial criteria:

A school district governing board shall grant a charter for the operation of a school under this part if it is satisfied that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice. The governing board of the school district shall not deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following findings:

- (1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
- (2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
- (3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures required.
- (4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code §47605(d).
- (5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

#### DISCUSSION

Staff convened a petition review team comprised of leadership within the District, which subsequently conducted an evaluation of the petition pursuant to the Charter Schools Act and with the application of the Oakland Unified School District Petition Evaluation Rubric.

Following the petition review process, staff conducted Petitioner Interviews in an attempt to clarify various aspects of the petition, as well as to evaluate the capacity of the petitioners to successfully implement the program as set forth in the petition.

Aspire College Academy opened in Fall 2011 as an Alameda County Office of Education approved charter school, operating in Region 3. The school served approximately 200 students in grades K-5 in its first year (2011-12), with plans to growing to a full capacity of 285 K-5 students by its fifth year of operation.

Aspire College Academy will replicate the Aspire Public Schools elementary school model currently being implemented at four (4) other charter schools authorized by Oakland Unified School District.

The staff report and charter petition evaluation contained herein describes the educational program, proposed school operations, as well as an articulation of strengths and foreseeable challenges, pursuant to the petition review process.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Oakland Unified School District's Board of Education **approve** the petition for Aspire College Academy under the California Charter Schools Act. The factual findings illustrated in this report demonstrate that the petition satisfies the five legally required categories of *Education Code § 47605*:

- (1) The charter school presents a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school;
- (2) The petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in petition
- (3) The petition contains the number of signatures required;
- (4) The petition contains an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code §47605(d);
- (5) The petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

This approval is for the charter program and operation in its entirety as proposed and revised herein to include all terms and conditions set forth in this report. Any subsequent material revision of the provision of this charter may be made only with the approval of the District as charter authorizer ( $Education\ Code\ \$47607(a)(1)$ ). Any material revision to any charter component must be proposed and considered according to the standards and criteria in Education Code \$47605 ( $Education\ Code\ \$47607(a)(2)$ ).

The term of this charter will be from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018, the maximum period allowed under the California Charter Schools Act (*Education Code §47607(a)(1)*). The District will not accept a charter renewal request more than 270 days prior to the expiration of the charter.

A charter may be revoked by the authority that granted the charter if the authority finds that the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in its charter (*Education Code §47607(c)(1)*). The Board of Education's approval of this charter shall incorporate the conditions on opening and associated deadlines as a condition of the charter.

The District retains the authority to delay opening for a period of up to one year, if any of the conditions on opening are not satisfactorily met by the associated deadlines. Not meeting any one of the conditions on opening and associated deadlines set forth in this approval may be grounds for revocation as set forth in the California Charter Schools Act (*Education Code* \$47607(c)(1)).

Pursuant to OUSD Governing Board Policy, BP 0420.4, if the school does not open on or before September 30, 2013, it will be considered a demonstration of petitioners' lack of capacity to implement the program set forth in the petition and the District will initiate charter revocation procedures.

## Oakland Unified School District

## **Charter Petition Evaluation**

School Name: Aspire: College Academy	Submission Date: March
	13, 2013*
	Public Hearing Date:
	March 27, 2013
<b>Petitioner Team (including Founding Families):</b> Latrice Harris, Sonia	Petitioner Interview Date:
Cerna, Jovelina Lucero, Tatiana Epanchin, Mariela Garcia, Hilda Garcia, Luis	May 1, 2013
Garcia, Maria Macias, Vianey Carreonde, Maria Hernandez, MiriamVasquez,	
and Rosa Castro	
Aspire's Public School Management Team: Wayne Hilty, James Cleveland,	Governing Board
Tatiana Epanchin, Jennifer Green, Miriam Vasquez, Michelle Florendo, and	<b>Interview Date</b> : May 1,
Elise Darwish	2013
	<b>Decision Date</b> : May 22,
	2013

#### **Recommendation:**

**Approval** of the Aspire College Academy charter petition, as revised, to reflect the terms and conditions set forth in this report, to begin operation July 1, 2013, and to expire June 30, 2018. Staff recommends approval of a full five-year term of operation. If conditions set forth here-in are not met as of August 1, 2013, and/or the petitioner and the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District mutually agree that success of the program would benefit from a delayed opening, the charter term will reflect the actual operation of the school to allow for a full five-year term of operation.

	St. Benedicts Catholic Church: 8030 Atherton St. Oakland, CA (Pg. 7)
Current location of school	
	Members of Aspire Public Schools management and parents of students
Composition of petitioner group	currently enrolled at Aspire College Academy
Grade levels to be served in year 1	K-5 (Pg. 9)
Anticipated enrollment in year 1	256 (Pg. 11)
Grade levels to be served at full-	
capacity	K-5 (Pg. 9)
Anticipated enrollment at full	
capacity	285 (Pg. 11)
	The School currently serves approximately 240 students in grades K-5.
	According to demographic data compiled by the California Department of
Target student population	Education, the District enrolled 46,377 students in 2011-12. Of these

students, African Americans constitute 31% of the students, American Indians .4%, Asians 13.4%, Filipinos .8%, Hispanics 41%, Pacific Islanders 1.1% and Whites 8.8%.

During the 2011-12 school year, students who spoke English as a second language made up 28.8% of the District student body.

The School seeks to enroll a diverse population of students that reflects these demographics.

(p. 9)

#### Brief description of the kind of school to be chartered.

Aspire's educational program is based on the instructional needs of our target student profile. Aspire targets the following students:

- Students who are not currently successful in their current core academic subjects;
- Students whose academic or English language learning needs necessitate a small school environment with personalized attention;
- Students whose academic or English language learning needs are not being met in a traditional school environment; and
- Students whose diversity represents their respective communities.

In education, one size does not fit all and Aspire is dedicated to providing students and families with a small school option that can meet their unique needs.

(p.9)

#### Brief explanation of the mission of proposed charter school.

"The School's mission is to provide all students with an exceptional education that will allow them to excel inside and outside the classroom. The School seeks to achieve this mission by offering students a rigorous core curriculum, an outstanding staff, high standards and expectations, extended instructional hours, and personalized learning opportunities. The School will strive to ensure that students are prepared for college and for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century world and workplace by helping them develop important basic skills, thinking skills, and life skills." (Pg. 10)

Planning t	o work witl	a charter management organization (CMO)	
Yes _X	No	If Yes, Name of CMO: Aspire Public Schools	

Aspire Public Schools currently operates six (6) charter schools authorized by OUSD, including four (4) serving elementary students. The following data provide some context for the current petition:

Aspire Elementary Schools API	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Berkley Maynard Academy (K-8)	817	825	841	851
ERES Academy (formerly Dolores Huerta*) (K-8)	597*	695	765	812
Millsmont Academy (K-5)	783	757	749	737
Monarch Academy (K-5)	774	825	787	773

Aspire Elementary Schools ELA CST % Prof/Adv	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Berkley Maynard Academy (K-8)	57	59	64	68
ERES Academy (formerly Dolores Huerta*) (K-8)	19*	34	44	52
Millsmont Academy (K-5)	47	46	44	40
Monarch Academy (K-5)	47	56	48	46

Aspire Elementary Schools Math CST % Prof/Adv	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Berkley Maynard Academy (K-8)	68	61	65	64
ERES Academy (formerly Dolores Huerta*) (K-8)	15*	46	63	65
Millsmont Academy (K-5)	66	62	56	45
Monarch Academy (K-5)	67	77	64	61

Aspire Schools Total Enrollment (spring)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Berkley Maynard Academy (K-8)	384	452	543	570
ERES Academy (formerly Dolores Huerta*) (K-8)		211	215	217
Millsmont Academy (K-5)	219	244	265	263
Monarch Academy (K-5)	350	352	378	384
Golden State Prep Academy (6-12)	211	269	310	279
Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy (9-12)	496	506	553	488
Total	1660	2034	2264	2201

Aspire Schools Demographics (fall 2012)	Latino	Asian	Filipino	African American	White	Multi- Racial	Total
Berkley Maynard Academy (K-8)	262	11	4	273	3	4	557
	47%	2%	1%	49%	0%	1%	
ERES Academy (K-8)	216	0	2	4	0	0	222
	97%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	
Millsmont Academy (K-5)	103	0	1	157	1	4	266
	39%	0%	0%	58%	0%	3%	
Monarch Academy (K-5)	365	2	0	16	1	4	388
	94%	0%	0%	5%	0%	1%	
Golden State Prep Academy (6-12)	360	0	2	113	0	5	480
	75%	0%	0%	24%	0%	1%	
Lionel Wilson College Prep. Academy (9-12)	481	3	0	16	1	0	501
	97%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	
Total	1787	16	9	579	6	17	2414
	74%	1%	0%	24%	0	1%	

#### **Signature Verification:**

EC 47605(a)(3) A petition shall include a prominent statement that a signature on the petition means that the parent or guardian is meaningfully interested in having his or her child, or ward, attend the charter school, or in the case of a teacher's signature, means that the teacher is meaningfully interested in teaching at the charter school. The proposed charter shall be attached to the petition.

The proposed charter shall be attached to the petition.	Y	N	PG#
□ Parents / Guardians	X		<b>Tab 22</b>
<ul> <li># aligned with proposed opening enrollment</li> </ul>	X		
o Prominent statement	X		
□ Teachers	X		Tab 22
<ul> <li># aligned with proposed opening enrollment</li> </ul>	X		
o Prominent statement	X		

# Oakland Unified School District

# **Charter Petition Evaluation**

#### Criteria Reference

• Inadequate: The response lacks meaningful detail; demonstrates lack of preparation; or

otherwise raises substantial concerns about the petitioner's understanding of the issue in concept and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

• **Approaches:** The response addresses most of the selection criteria, but lacks some

meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be

reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: The response indicates solid preparation and grasp of key issues that

would be considered reasonably comprehensive. It contains many of the characteristics of a response that excels even though it may require

additional specificity, support or elaboration in places.

• Excels: The response reflects a thorough understanding of key issues and indicates

capacity to open and operate a quality charter school. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that shows thorough preparation and presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate.

## STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

ASSURANCES	Y N	PG#
<b>1.</b> Will not charge tuition, fees, or other mandatory payments for attendance at the charter school or for participation in programs that are required for students.	X	Pg. 3
<b>2.</b> Will enroll any eligible student who submits a timely and complete application, unless the school receives a greater number of applications than there are spaces for students, in which case a lottery will take place in accordance with California charter laws and regulations.	X	Pg. 3
<b>3.</b> Will be non-secular in its curriculum, programs, admissions, policies, governance, employment practices, and all other operations.	X	Pg. 3
<b>4.</b> Will be open to all students, on a space available basis, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or academic achievement.	X	Pg. 3
<b>5.</b> Will not base admission on the student's or parent's/guardian's place of residence, except that a conversion school shall give admission preference to students who reside within the former attendance area of the public school.	X	Pg. 5
<b>6.</b> Will offer at least the minimum amount of instructional time at each grade level as required by law.	X	Pg. 4
7. Will provide to the Office of Charter Schools information regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the school, including, but not limited to, the facilities to be used by the school, including where the school intends to locate, the manner in which administrative services will be provided, and potential civil liability effects, if any, upon the school and authorizing board.	X	Pg. 6
<b>8.</b> Will adhere to all applicable provisions of federal law relating to students with disabilities, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.	X	Pg. 3
9. Will adhere to all applicable provisions of federal law relating to students who are English language learners, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974; MGL c. 76, § 5; and MGL c. 89, 71 § (f) and (I).	X	Pg. 5
10. Will comply with all other applicable federal and state laws and regulations.	X	Pg. 5
11. Will submit an annual report and annual independent audits to the OUSD Office of Charter Schools by all required deadlines.	X	Pg. 5
<b>12.</b> Will submit required enrollment data each March to the OUSD Office of Charter Schools by the required deadline.	X	Pg. 5
13. Will operate in compliance with generally accepted government accounting principles.	X	Pg. 5
14. Will maintain separate accountings of all funds received and disbursed by the school.	X	Pg. 5
15. Will participate in the California State Teachers' Retirement System as applicable.	X	Pg. 5
<b>16.</b> Will obtain and keep current all necessary permits, licenses, and certifications related to fire, health and safety within the building(s) and on school property.	X	Pg. 5
17. Will at all times maintain all necessary and appropriate insurance coverage.	X	Pg. 4

<b>18.</b> Will submit to the OUSD Office of Charter Schools the names, mailing addresses, and employment and educational histories of proposed new members of the Governing Board prior to their service.	X	Pg. 32, Tab 9
19. Will, in the event the Governing Board intends to procure substantially all educational services for the charter school through a contract with another person or entity, provide for approval of such contract by the Board of Education in advance of the beginning of the contract period.		Pg. 5
<b>20.</b> Will provide financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget with start-up costs and anticipated revenues and expenditures necessary to operate the school, including special education; and cash-flow and financial projections for the first three years of operation.	X	Pg. 6, Tab 20
<b>21.</b> Will provide to the Office of Charter Schools a school code of conduct, Governing Board bylaws, an enrollment policy, and an approved certificate of building occupancy for each facility in use by the school, according to the schedule set by the Office of Charter Schools but in any event prior to the opening of the school.	X	Pg. 6

#### I. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

**Statutory References:** 

E.C. § 47605(b)(1)

E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(A)-(C)

The education program should tell you who the school expects to serve; what the students will achieve; how they will achieve it; and how the school will evaluate performance. It should give you a clear picture of what a student who attends the school will experience in terms of educational climate, structure, materials, schedule, assessment and outcomes.

#### A. TARGET POPULATION

Petition Pg. 9 - 10

**NOTE:** Detail in this area is often lacking in charter petitions, but has been assessed by OUSD in its experience creating new schools to be a critical factor in the success of proposed educational programs.

A description of the Target Population excels if it has the following characteristics:

- Coherent description of the students the school expects to serve based on understanding of the district population and the location in which the school expects to operate;
- Demonstrated understanding of the educational needs of the target population; and
- Explanation of how the mission and vision align with the needs of the target population.

#### TARGET POPULATION

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

#### ANALYSIS: TARGET POPULATION

Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;	Reference
	Concerns & Additional Questions	
TAB 1 p. 9		
	TAB 1	TAB 1

## B. PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO INSTRUCTION

cha	aracteristics:			Petition			
1.	Rationale: Is the ratio	Pg. 10 -26					
	<ul> <li>A compelling rationale with a clear foundation in research-based educational practices, teaching methods and/or high standards for student learning;</li> </ul>						
2.	Mission Alignment:	Do the philosophy and appro	oach align with the mission and	vision?			
	o Alignment with m	ission and vision; and					
3.	<b>Population Alignmen</b> benefit?	nt: Does sound reasoning or	evidence indicate that the targe	et population is likely to			
	improved education	onal performance for the targ	and approach are appropriate for get population, including any average only and approach to instruction	ailable performance			
	1. Rationale: Is the ra	tionale compelling?					
	Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
			X				
	2. Mission Alignment	t: Do the philosophy and appro	ach align with the mission and vis	ion?			
	Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
			X				

3. Population Alignment: Does sound reasoning or evidence indicate that the target population is likely to

Meets X

**Approaches** 

A description of the Educational Philosophy and Approach to Instruction excels if it has the following

benefit?

Inadequate

Excels

#### ANALYSIS: EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO INSTRUCTION

If Meets or Excels;	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;	Reference
Strengths		Concerns & Additional Questions	
Rationale  - There is evidence of success with the			
Aspire K-5 model in similar areas/neighborhoods.			
Mission Alignment	TAB 1		
<ul> <li>Petition summarizes the demographics of students served, as well as their academic performance levels.</li> </ul>	P.9		
<ul> <li>Petition describes in detail the program design elements and teaching methods that support the goal of college for certain</li> </ul>	p.11-13		
Population Alignment  - Description of "How Learning Best Occurs" provides specifics on program design with research	Pg.10		
references.  - ELD standards have been mapped to align to Aspire's Instructional	Tab 7		
Guidelines  - Supports to SPED students and those students achieving below/above grade level are described	p.21-22		

# C. CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK X Mark this box on behalf of the curriculum that has already been selected/developed:

Petition
Pg. 13-22 /Tabs 3-8

The description of the curriculum should provide the reviewer with a sense not only of  $\overline{what}$  the school will teach but also of how and why. It must present research, applicant experience and/or reasoning sufficient to convince the reviewer that the applicants have already made sound educational decisions.

A description of the Curriculum Framework excels if it has the following characteristics:

- **1. Alignment**: Is the selection well-reasoned and aligned with the mission, state standards and student needs?
  - A clear description of the framework and research, experience and/or sound reasoning that demonstrates alignment with the school's mission, state standards and anticipated student needs;
- **2. Implementation**: Does the plan demonstrate the resources, scheduling and professional support needed for effective implementation?
  - An implementation plan showing persuasively the resources, daily schedule, annual calendar and professional development that support effective implementation; and
  - A clear description of the manner in which the school will prioritize the implementation of those elements of the proposed educational program that will ensure likely achievement of the goals of the program;
- **3. Evaluation**: Does the school have strategies to evaluate effectiveness and respond when student performance falls short of goals?
  - Effective strategies for evaluating the effectiveness of implementation and responding when student performance falls short of goals.

**1. Alignment**: *Is the selection well-reasoned and aligned with the mission, state standards and student needs?* Inadequate Excels **Approaches Meets** X **2. Implementation**: Does the plan demonstrate the resources, scheduling and professional support needed for effective implementation? Inadequate Excels **Approaches** Meets X 3. Evaluation: Does the school have strategies to evaluate effectiveness and respond when student performance falls short of goals? Inadequate **Approaches Excels** Meets X

## ANALYSIS: CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

If Meets or Excels;	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;	Reference
Strengths		Concerns & Additional Questions	
<ul> <li>Alignment</li> <li>Description reflects the development and selection of curriculum over time in Aspire schools.</li> <li>Provides overview of supports for SPED/ELs/students performing below or above grade level</li> </ul>	p.13-16 p.19-22	Implementation  - No explicit time devoted to ELD or standardized ELD curriculum. The proposed instruction will take place in the course of the day dependent upon teachers' ability to differentiate instruction to this group of	p.19
<ul> <li>Implementation</li> <li>Detailed instructional guidelines provided regarding Math/ELA and ELD standards alignment</li> <li>2012-2013 instructional and assessment calendars</li> </ul>	Tab 5 &7 Tab 6	students.	
<ul> <li>Evaluation</li> <li>Comprehensive calendar of assessments.</li> <li>Personalized Learning Plans for each student at the site</li> </ul>	Tab 6 and p.20-21 p.16		

Petition Pg. 22-26; Tab 16 & 18

#### D. SPECIAL POPULATIONS: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Federal law requires charter schools, like all public schools, to provide a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment to students identified with disabilities who are enrolled at the school. A plan for serving students with disabilities excels if it has the following characteristics:

- Demonstrated understanding of state and federal special education requirements including the fundamental obligation to provide a free, appropriate education to students identified with disabilities and obligations held under Section 504 of the ADA;
- A clear statement regarding what petitioners expect will be the school's anticipated LEA status for purposes of special education and the implications of that status determination;
- A sound plan -- including lead contact, funding, service and intervention arrangements -- for identifying and meeting the needs of students identified with disabilities;
- Alignment of the special education plan with the core educational program; and
- Evidence of high expectations for students with special needs.

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

#### ANALYSIS: SPECIAL EDUCATION

If Meets or Excels;	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;	Reference
Strengths		Concerns & Additional	
		Questions	
- Clear statement of status as LEA within the	p.24		
El Dorado County Office of Education			
SELPA.			
<ul> <li>Assurances of compliance with legal</li> </ul>	p.24-26		
obligations included.			
<ul> <li>Professional development on special</li> </ul>	p. 22		
education			
<ul> <li>RTI implementation described</li> </ul>	p. 21		
<ul> <li>Procedures for suspension/expulsion of</li> </ul>	TAB		
special education (including 504) students	16&18		

#### E. SPECIAL POPULATIONS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Federal law requires charter schools, like all public schools, to meet the needs of English language learners by helping them gain English proficiency and also make progress in all academic subjects. A plan for serving English language learners excels if it has the following characteristics:

- Demonstrated understanding of the likely English language learner population;
- A sound approach to identifying and meeting the needs of English language learners tailored to the anticipated population;
- A sound approach to helping English language learners fulfill expectations of the core educational program, including a lead contact and intervention process; and
- Evidence of high expectations for English language learners.

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
	X		

#### ANALYSIS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

If Meets or Excels; Re		If Approaches or Inadequate;	Reference
Strengths		Concerns & Additional Questions	
<ul> <li>Text of petition supplemented by "Map of English Language Development Standards to Aspire Instructional Guidelines."</li> <li>Identification, testing and reclassification procedures comply with legal requirements.</li> <li>Information at interviews provided additional detail on reclassification criteria</li> </ul>	Tab 7	- No explicit time devoted to ELD or standardized ELD curriculum. The proposed instruction will be "contextualized in the classroom" as ELD is "not a discrete part of the day." This approach relies upon teachers' ability to differentiate instruction to this group of students and to be properly developed as it pertains to ELD standards/approaches that differ	TAB 3 & Petitioner Interview
<ul> <li>Teachers are provided with Guided Language Acquisition Development (GLAD) training</li> </ul>	p. 19	<ul> <li>from general literacy acquisition.</li> <li>English fluency levels of ELs are not disaggregated</li> </ul>	TAB 1

#### F. PUPIL OUTCOMES

Pupil outcomes are central to the school's existence. They represent the school's definition of success and should drive all aspects of the program and operation. A description of Pupil Outcomes excels if it has the following characteristics:

- **1. Alignment**: Do the objectives align with the mission and vision?
  - o Educational objectives aligned with the mission, vision and educational program;
- **2. Measurement**: Are the goals clear, specific and measurable?
  - o Multiple performance measures applied to student learning objectives.
  - o Measures include performance goals based on absolute (e.g., proficiency levels), relative (e.g., comparison schools) and individual gains (e.g., year-to-year matched student cohort gains);
  - o Goals that are specific, measurable and time bound;
- **3. Performance Level**: Have the petitioners demonstrated that the target performance levels are both ambitious and attainable?
  - o Performance levels that are both ambitious and realistic including rigorous promotion and graduation standards;
  - o Performance levels are considered annually and graduated as needed to sufficiently accelerate learning based on the needs of the target population;

**1. Alignment**: Do the objectives align with the mission and vision?

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
		X				
2. Measurement: Are the goals clear, specific and measurable?						
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
		X				

**3. Performance Level**: Have the petitioners demonstrated that the target performance levels are both ambitious and attainable?

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

## **ANALYSIS: PUPIL OUTCOMES**

If Meets or Excels;	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate; Concerns &	Reference
Strengths		Additional Questions	
Alignment  - Pupil outcomes are rigorous, aligned with California standards and are consistent with mission of the school to prepare students for higher education.  - Outcomes listed for IEP goal completion and EL reclassification	Pg. 28- 30; Tab 6	Measurement  - Year-to-year matched student cohort gains are not included	
<ul> <li>Measurement</li> <li>Multiple measures include personal learning plans, benchmark assessments and other standardized tests.</li> <li>Frequent assessments included in comprehensive calendar.</li> <li>Use of rubrics in writing assessment</li> <li>Well-developed cycle of inquiry.</li> <li>School-wide outcomes designated to achieve 800 API in 2013-14.</li> <li>Use of CA Physical Fitness Test</li> <li>Aspire data comparisons will be made at student, grade level, school and organization wide to inform the school program</li> </ul>	p.27-32		
Performance Level  - Performance levels set based on past student performance actual for 2011-2012	Pg. 28-29		

Petition Pg.20, 27-32, Tab 6

#### G. PUPIL PROGRESS

Summative evaluations measure student performance for the purpose of evaluating academic program effectiveness and overall school operation. In other words, they are used to determine how much students have learned.

Formative evaluations measure student performance for the purpose of determining students' learning needs and to inform instructional strategies. In other words, they are used to determine what students still need to learn.

A plan for evaluating Pupil Progress excels if it uses both formative and summative and includes the following characteristics:

- **1. Assessments**: Does the school have valid and reliable measures of student progress?
  - o Identification of the expected range of formative and summative assessments including but not limited to state-mandated assessments;
  - o Evidence that assessments will be valid and reliable measures of student progress toward achieving the identified Pupil Outcomes.
- **2. Instruction Improvement**: Does the school have a sound plan for using assessments to inform instruction?
  - o A coherent strategy for using student assessment and performance data to evaluate and inform instruction on an ongoing basis.
- **3. Reporting**: *Is the school committed to reporting and disseminating performance information?* 
  - o A plan for sharing performance information, including standardized test results, with students, families and public agencies, as required.
  - o A clear description of the manner in which stakeholders will act upon and make use of the performance information provided.

**1. Assessments**: Does the school have valid and reliable measures of student progress?

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
		X				
2. Instruction Improvemen	2. Instruction Improvement: Does the school have a sound plan for using assessments to inform instruction?					
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
			X			
3. Reporting: Is the school committed to reporting and disseminating performance information?						
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels			
		X				

## **ANALYSIS: PUPIL PROGRESS**

If Meets or Excels; Strengths	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;  Concerns & Additional  Questions	Reference
Assessments  - Includes formative and summative assessments with emphasis on Aspire-developed benchmarks, aligned with California standards.	Pg. 30-32		
<ul> <li>Assessments identified as specific measures of student performance for MPOs.</li> </ul>	Pg. 28-30		
<ul> <li>Instructional Improvement</li> <li>Data is used in frequent Cycle of Inquiry process to determine program and teacher effectiveness.</li> <li>Practice within Aspire network to use results to adjust program to meet needs of particular school site through consultation of principal and Area Superintendent.</li> </ul>	Pg. 30-32		
<ul> <li>Reporting</li> <li>Reporting of results to parents through student-led conferences, standards-based report cards, and personal learning plans.</li> <li>Advisory school council receives reports on overall student performance.</li> <li>Additional progress reporting described for parents of English learners.</li> </ul>	Pg. 20 and 30		

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SUMMARY

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SUMMARY
Strengths
Program has a record of effectiveness in other Oakland charter schools employing the same model. The petition as submitted provides evidence of a comprehensive, coherently described, and aligned educational program that is sound and likely to meaningfully benefit the target population. Assessment system is comprehensive and includes structured use of data for improving individual student performance and informing program improvement.
Concerns and Additional Questions

#### II. PETITIONER CAPACITY

Statutory References:

E.C. § 47605(b)(2)

E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(D)-(P)

E.C. § 47605(c)(2)

E.C. § 47605(g)

The Charter Schools Act requires the authorizer to determine whether the petitioners are "demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program." Experience with new school development demonstrates that unless petitioners have sound plans and capacity for governance, management, employment and financial operation, they are unlikely to successfully implement the program. This section should provide a clear, convincing picture of the petitioners' capacity to operate the school successfully.

#### A. GOVERNANCE CAPACITY

A description of the plan for Governance excels if it has the following characteristics:

Petition Pg. 33-36; Tab 9-11,14,15,and 20

- **1.** Legal Structure: Does the school have adequate and appropriate legal structure?
  - o Documentation of proper legal structure (Articles of Incorporation stamped by the Office of the Secretary of State and corporate Bylaws);
  - o Evidence of 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation status;
  - O Adequate bylaws, policies & procedures for governing body operation (director selection & removal, decision making, powers and duties, expansion and transition plans)
- **2.** Charter School Governance Experience/ Expertise: Does the board demonstrate the capacity needed to govern effectively?
  - o Evidence of analysis that proposed founding members of the governing body possess and will contribute the wide range of knowledge and skills needed to oversee a successful charter school;
  - o Evidence of the existing or emerging capacity of the proposed founding members of the governing board to work as an effective unit in the interest of the proposed charter school;
- **3. Operating Plan:** *Does the school have an operating plan that complies with legal obligations and incorporates sound governance practices?* 
  - o Demonstrated understanding of the board's responsibility for the educational and fiscal integrity of the school and for fulfilling the terms of the charter;
  - Clear, reasonable selection and removal procedures, term limits, meeting schedules, and powers and duties for members of the governing body;
  - o Demonstrated understanding and assurance of compliance with open meetings requirements;
  - Reasonable conflict of interest policy;
  - Adequate plan for insurance;
  - O A plan for meaningful involvement or input of parents and community members in the governance of the school;
  - Clear, sensible delineation of roles and responsibilities of parent councils, advisory committees or other supporting groups; and

1. Legal Structure: Does the school have adequate and appropriate legal structure?

Inadequate Approaches Meets Excels

2. Governance Experience: Does the board demonstrate the capacity needed to govern effectively?

Inadequate Approaches Meets Excels

X

3. Operating Plan: Does the school have an operating plan that complies with legal obligations and incorporates sound governance practices?

Clear, sensible definition of governing body roles and responsibilities in relation to management.

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

### ANALYSIS: GOVERNANCE CAPACITY

If Meets or Excels;	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;	Reference
Strengths		Concerns & Additional Questions	
Legal Structure  - School will be part of established CMO, Aspire Public Schools with an experienced Board and management team.	Pg. 7		
<ul> <li>Charter School Governance Experience and Expertise</li> <li>Aspire lead petitioner and management teams have substantial experience, including start-up and operation of four (4) elementary schools in Oakland with the same program.</li> <li>Home office team has experience working together in their current and prior positions with Aspire Public Schools.</li> </ul>	Petitioner interview		
Operating Plan  - Board has successfully led Aspire Public Schools through substantial expansion and management transitions.  - By-laws reflect sound governance principles and include appropriate	Petitioner interview; Tab 9 Tab 10	Operating Plan  - Insurance requirements specified in text revisions.	
<ul><li>provisions for director transition,</li><li>officers and committees.</li><li>Petition commits organization to</li></ul>	Pg. 33		
Brown Act compliance.  - Conflict of interest code is comprehensive and complies with Fair Political Practices Commission	Tab 11		
standards.  - Parent involvement through established structure of Advisory School Council, which founding families described as effective opportunity for parents to address concerns.	Petitioner interviews		
<ul> <li>Description of Board duties reflects sound governance practice. Experience of management team is consistent with petition's text.</li> </ul>	Petitioner interviews		

#### **B. MANAGEMENT CAPACITY**

A leadership plan excels if it has the following characteristics:

Petition Pg. 37-51, Tab 14,15 and 21

- **1. Enrollment Procedures**: Does the petition present reasonable enrollment procedures that comply with applicable law?
  - A description of the means by which the school will seek to attain a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the district including specific plans and strategies for student recruitment:
  - A clear and compelling student recruitment plan likely to attract projected enrollment, particularly in Year 1;
  - A specific plan for conducting a public random drawing or an assurance that such a drawing will be conducted subject to district approval in the event that the number of pupils who wish to attend the school exceed the capacity;
  - o An assurance that the school will not impose admission requirements OR, if the school proposes to have requirements, a precise description of those requirements, a compelling statement regarding why they are essential to fulfillment of the school's mission, and a specific plan for the school will incorporate the requirements into any random drawings.
  - A clear description of the enrollment process to include any unique intake or application evaluation process to be used by the school designed to meet the needs of the target population outlined in the petition.
- **2. Operating Procedures**: Does the petition present sound operating procedures that comply with applicable law?
  - o The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff;
  - o A clearly articulated discipline policy with suspension and expulsion procedures that are fully explained consistent with the school's mission, educational philosophy and applicable law;
  - A statement regarding attendance alternatives for students residing in the district who choose not to attend the school;
  - A statement that the school intends to use the district's approved procedure for resolving disputes relating to provisions of the charter OR, in the alternative, a clear description of the procedures that the school proposes to use;
  - o A description of the systems likely to be effective in addressing parent and community complaints; and
  - O An assurance that the school will comply with the district's approved procedures for school closure in the event that the charter is relinquished, revoked or not renewed.
- **3.** Management Structure: How effective is the management structure likely to be?
  - o Clearly defined management roles and responsibilities for all positions within the administration of the school;
  - o A clear plan for recruitment, selection, development and evaluation of staff including the school leader;
  - Verifiable internal procedures and controls to ensure conformance with the approved budget;
  - An approved and public organizational chart delineating board and management roles and lines of authority;

- o Clear, sensible delineation of roles and responsibilities for implementing the school program including clearly defined roles for parent councils, advisory committees and other supporting groups;
- o Management job descriptions identifying key roles, responsibilities and accountability;
- O An allocation of time, financial resources and personnel that is sufficient for planning and start-up prior to the school's opening; and
- o The manner in which administrative services are to be provided and any potential civil liability effects on the school or the district.

1. Enrollment Procedures:	Does the petition present reason	onable enrollment procedures t	that comply with applicable
law?			
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	
2. Operating Procedures: I	Does the petition present sound	operating procedures that con	uply with applicable law?
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	
3. Management Structure:	How effective is the manageme	ent structure likely to be?	
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

## **ANALYSIS: MANAGEMENT CAPACITY**

If Meets or Excels;  Strengths	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;  Concerns & Additional Questions	Reference
9		Concerns & Auditorial Questions	
<ul> <li>Enrollment Procedures</li> <li>Plan for a variety of outreach included, but home office management team also recognized challenge of balancing neighborhood interest in the school with larger goal of reflecting overall District demographics.</li> <li>Recruitment activities prior to submission of petition identified sufficient families meaningfully interested to fill available spaces. "Founding families" assisting with further recruitment.</li> </ul>	Tab 17 Petitioner interviews  Petitioner interviews		
<ul> <li>Admission preference and lottery procedures well-developed based on experience of over-subscription at other Aspire schools.</li> <li>No admissions requirements included.</li> <li>Enrollment process consistent with other Aspire schools, which has been submitted to and reviewed by the OUSD Office of Charter Schools.</li> </ul>	Pg. 45; petitioner interviews Pg. 45		
<ul> <li>Operating Procedures</li> <li>Comprehensive safety plan included in appendix. Because school site has been used by Aspire for secondary students, safety procedures are well-developed.</li> <li>Comprehensive positive behavior</li> </ul>	Tab 16		
management plan and suspension and expulsion procedures are fully developed and thorough. Behavior plan reflects life skills element of school's mission and philosophy. Suspension/expulsion procedures are consistent with California Education Code.	Tab 18		
<ul><li>Attendance alternatives statement is included.</li><li>Dispute resolution and</li></ul>	Pg. 51 Pg. 53-54;	Management Structure  - No organizational chart for	
parent/community complaint procedures are as required by the District's text.	Tab 12	school or home office provided; all job descriptions not included.	
<ul> <li>School closure procedures are compliant with charter law.</li> </ul>	Pg. 56-58		

Management Structure	Site	
- School site positions and qualifications	Inspection	
briefly described.		
- Aspire's prior experience with		
successful school start-up provides		
evidence of the petitioner's capacity to		
plan and implement the steps of school		
start-up. Conditions included with the		
petition evaluation will assure		
necessary steps are taken.		
- The provision of administrative	Tab 19	
services is described and potential civil		
liability effects on the school or the		
district are stated.		
<ul> <li>Internal fiscal control policies and</li> </ul>	Tab 23	
procedures clearly outlined		

#### C. EMPLOYMENT CAPACITY

Petition Pg. 37-40, Tab 15

An employment plan excels if it has the following characteristics:

- **1. Qualifications and Responsibilities:** How clear and sensible are required staff capacities and intended allocation of responsibilities?
  - o Description of the qualifications for and responsibilities of key employees of the school, including the instructional leader and other key school administration positions.
- **2.** Compensation Plan: How sound is the staff compensation plan?
  - o A compensation plan based on sound budget assumptions that reflects understanding of the prevailing market and supports the proposed educational program.
- **3. Policies and Assurances:** *Does the petition contain the required assurances and a reasonable plan for policy development?* 
  - o Adequate personnel policies or a sound plan articulated for timely development;
  - An assurance that staff will meet applicable state and federal requirements for credentialing and "highly qualified" status;
  - An adequate description of the manner by which staff members of the charter school will be covered by the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or federal social security;
  - A statement regarding employee rights of return, if any;
  - A clear declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act; and
  - o An assurance that staff will have criminal background and other required health and safety checks and manner in which these will be conducted.

**1. Qualifications and Responsibilities:** How clear and sensible are required staff capacities and intended allocation of responsibilities?

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels		
		X			
2. Compensation Plan: Ho	ow sound is the staff compensati	on plan?			
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels		
		X			
<b>3. Policies and Assurances:</b> Does the petition contain the required assurances and a reasonable plan for policy development?					
development?		,	1 3 1		
development?  Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels		

## ANALYSIS: EMPLOYMENT CAPACITY

If Meets or Excels; Strengths	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;  Concerns & Additional  Questions	Reference
Qualifications and Responsibilities  - Qualifications of key employees are described, as well as hiring process, professional development and evaluation.	Tab 14		
<ul> <li>Appendices include thorough process for selection of school principal and evaluation documents for principal, teachers and classified staff.</li> </ul>	Tab 14		
<ul> <li>Compensation Plan</li> <li>Budget assumptions reflect statement of compensation in petition, as comparable to local districts.</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Policies and Assurances</li> <li>Personnel policies well-developed within Aspire network.</li> <li>Assurances as to staff credential requirements are included.</li> </ul>	Petitioner interview Pg. 39 Pg. 50		
<ul> <li>State Teachers' Retirement System and Public Employees' Retirement System participation is specified.</li> <li>Exclusive public school employer statement included.</li> </ul>	Pg. 55		
<ul> <li>Criminal background and other required health and safety checks are described.</li> </ul>	Pg. 37		

#### D. FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Petition Tab 20

The petition should present an understanding of how the charter operators intend to manage the school's finances and maintain the organization's financial viability. It should make a persuasive case for financial viability including sound revenue projections; expenditure requirements; and budgetary support for and alignment with the educational program.

A plan for financial capacity excels if it has the following characteristics:

- **1. Financial Operation:** How would you rate the structures and practices related to financial operation?
  - o A balanced three-year budget accurately reflecting all budget assumptions;
  - o A start-up year plan with reasonable assessment of and plan for costs;
  - o A clear indication that the school has a sound plan for sustainability including funding for the core program that does not have ongoing reliance on "soft" money (e.g., donations, grants, etc.);
  - o Clear evidence and track record of sustainability, in the event there is an enduring reliance on "soft" money (e.g., donations, grants, etc.);
  - An adequate reserve and contingency plan targeted to the minimum enrollment needed for solvency (especially for year 1);
  - o A sound plan for financial management systems;
  - o An audit assurance and/or plan with adequate budget allocation; and
  - o A plan for dissolution of assets should the school close.
- **2. Revenues:** How would you rate the accuracy and attainability of the revenue projections?
  - o A narrative explaining key revenue assumptions;
  - o Realistic revenue projections showing all anticipated revenue sources -- including state, local, federal and private funds, and any fee-based programs and services;
  - o Realistic cash flow projection; and
  - o A fundraising plan including assumptions and report on current status.
- **3. Expenditures:** How would you rate the expenditure plan in terms of sound assumptions and priorities consistent with effective operation of the school?
  - o Spending priorities that align with the school's mission, educational program, management structure, professional development needs, and growth plan;
  - o A budget narrative explaining key expense assumptions;
  - o Realistic expense projections addressing major operating expenses including staffing and benefits, special education, facility, materials and equipment, and contracted services;
  - o Budgeting to meet minimum insurance requirements; and
  - Evidence to support key assumptions including that compensation is sufficient to attract qualified staff and that facilities budget is adequate.

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels	
		X		
2. Revenues: How would	you rate the accuracy and attai	nability of the revenue projectio	ns?	
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels	
		X		
<b>3. Expenditures:</b> How would you rate the expenditure plan in terms of sound assumptions and priorities consistent with effective operation of the school?				
Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels	
		X		

**1. Financial Operation**: How would you rate the structures and practices related to financial operation?

#### **ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL CAPACITY**

If Meets or Excels; Strongths	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;  Concerns & Additional Questions	Reference
Strengths Eineneial Operation		Concerns & Additional Questions	
<ul> <li>Financial Operation</li> <li>3-year budget includes conservative assumptions, given current state funding uncertainty.</li> <li>Start up expenses included in first year budget.</li> <li>Operating budget includes no donation revenue or other "soft" sources of funds.</li> <li>Reserve of 3% included, which is adequate. Revenue reflects reasonable assumptions of enrollment and attendance, based on parent signatures and prior Aspire experience.</li> <li>Aspire audits of prior years for multiple schools evidence sound financial practices.</li> <li>School closure plan includes</li> </ul>	Petitioner interviews Tab 20		
provision for distribution of assets.			
Revenues	Tab 20		
<ul> <li>Budget narrative explains revenue assumptions.</li> <li>Revenue assumptions of funding rates for state, federal and local sources are conservative.</li> <li>Aspire network provides cash flow resources to support new school.</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Expenditures</li> <li>Assumptions and budget consistent with class sizes, which are described in petition as an important aspect of educational philosophy.</li> <li>Spending based on past Aspire experience (in Oakland specifically and throughout the state) with school start-up and operation.</li> <li>Budget projections of expense cover all major operating expense categories and are based on historic Aspire experience.</li> <li>Insurance costs are covered within 7% contribution to corporate administration.</li> </ul>	Petitioner interview		

#### E. FACILITIES PLAN

The Facilities Plan should demonstrate that the	e petitioners understand	the school's facilities	needs
and its options for meeting those needs.			

Do the petitioners an	iticipate using	a district facility	or finding a	facility in	dependent o	f the d	listrict?
X Non-distric	ct facility	District fac	cility (Prop 39	9)			

#### **Select One**

#### X Non-district facility anticipated

A description of the plan for using a non-district facility excels if it has the following characteristics:

- Informed assessment of anticipated facilities needs;
- Estimated costs for anticipated facilities needs based on research and evidence;
- A description of potential sites including location, size and resources;
- Informed analysis of the viability of potential sites;
- Adequate budget for anticipated facilities costs including renovation, rent, maintenance and utilities;
- A schedule for securing a facility including the person responsible for implementation
- An assurance of legal compliance (health and safety, ADA, and applicable building codes); and
- Identified funding sources.

### ☐ District facility anticipated pursuant to Prop 39

A description of the facilities plan where the applicants have not yet identified a specific site will include the following characteristics:

- Informed assessment and description of anticipated facilities needs;
- Adequate budget based on 3% of anticipated per pupil revenue;
- A thoughtful contingency plan in the event that a mutually agreeable district facility is unable to be procured,
- A site preference with a compelling rationale for the preference; and
- An assurance of legal compliance (health and safety, ADA, and applicable building codes).

**Facilities Plan:** Does the facilities plan indicate a thorough understanding of the school's needs?

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

#### ANALYSIS: FACILITIES PLAN

If Meets or Excels; Strengths	Reference	If Approaches or Inadequate;  Concerns & Additional Questions	Reference
<ul> <li>Strengths</li> <li>School is located at a former parochial elementary school site.</li> <li>A five year lease through 2017 is in place.</li> <li>Petitioner is well-acquainted with the site's capacity and condition.</li> <li>Costs reflect known experience with the site, including rent, maintenance and utilities.</li> <li>Assurance of legal compliance (health and safety, ADA, and applicable building codes) is included in the petition and in conditions.</li> <li>Facilities costs are included in the submitted budget.</li> </ul>	Site Inspection Petitioner interview Petitioner interview Tab 20	Concerns & Additional Questions	
suomittea suaget.			

## PETITIONER CAPACITY SUMMARY

Based on the information presented in the petition, how would you rate the likelihood that petitioners will successfully implement the proposed program? Your comments should identify the most significant strengths and weaknesses with respect to petitioner capacity.

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Excels
		X	

# PETITIONER CAPACITY SUMMARY

Strengths
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The petition and responses provided during the petitioner interviews, as well as the evidence of the District's past experience with the petitioner and the due diligence conducted by staff, demonstrate capacity within the petitioning group that is likely to successfully implement the program as set forth in the petition.

Criteria Not Sufficiently Addressed, Concerns & Additional Questions		
None.		

## SIXTEEN ELEMENTS TABLE

Statutory Reference: E.C. §§ 47605(b)(5)(A) to (P).

The Charter Schools Act requires authorizers to evaluate whether the petitioners have presented a "reasonably comprehensive" description of 16 elements related to a school's operation (the "16 Elements." To complete the following table,

- 1. Read the Element (column 1)
- 2. Use column 2 to find your earlier assessment of the item
- 3. Translate your assessment into a rating of "Inadequate" or "Reasonably Comprehensive" and mark the corresponding box.

Element	Evaluation Reference Inadequate		Reasonably Comprehensive	Statutory Reference	
Description of the educational program of the school, including what it means to be an "educated person" in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century and how learning best occurs.	Section I., bullet 3		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(A)	
Measurable pupil outcomes	Section II.D.		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(B)	
Method by which pupil progress is to be measured	Section II.E.		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(C)	
Governance structure	Section III.A.		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(D)	
Qualifications to be met by individuals employed at the school	Section III.C.1.		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(E)	
Procedures for ensuring health & safety of students	Section III.B.2., bullet 1		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(F)	
Means for achieving racial and ethnic balance	Section III.B.1., bullet 1		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(G)	
Admission requirements, if applicable	Section III.B.1., bullet 3		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(H)	
Manner for conducting annual, independent audits	Section III.D.1., bullet 7		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(I)	
Suspension and expulsion procedures	Section III.B.2., bullet 2		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(J)	
Manner for covering STRS, PERS, or Social Security	Section III.C.3., bullet 3		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(K)	
Attendance alternatives for pupils residing within the district	Section III.B.2., Bullet 3		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(L)	
Employee rights of return, if any	Section III.C.3., bullet 4		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(M)	
Dispute resolution procedure for school- authorizer issues	Section III.B.2., Bullet 4		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(N)	
Statement regarding exclusive employer status of the school	Section III.C.3., bullet 5		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(O)	
Procedures for school closure	Section III.B.2., Bullet 5		X	E.C. § 47605(b)(5)(P)	

# **ANALYSIS: SIXTEEN ELEMENTS**

Comment on strengths and concerns about specific elements only to the extent that you have not already provided the relevant analysis in an earlier section.

Strengths	Reference
Petition as submitted, with appendices, contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all required elements set forth in charter law.	
Criteria Not Sufficiently Addressed, Concerns & Additional Questions	Reference

#### **APPENDIX II - RECOMMENDED CHARTER TEXT REVISIONS:**

## Oakland Unified School District Office of Charter Schools

# CHARTER TEXT REVISIONS – ASPIRE COLLEGE ACADEMY

**APPENDIX I - REQUIRED CHARTER TEXT REVISIONS**: The approved charter is amended from the filed petition to incorporate the revisions below. The charter school must submit to the District's Office of Charter Schools a revised charter to include all revisions outlined below in one hard copy and one electronic copy in *WORD* format on a CD or via email of no later than **5pm on June 28, 2013**.

Charter Text	Text	Revision
Measurable Pupil Outcome	Reference Page 27	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:  "In accordance with SB 1290, Aspire College Academy pupil outcomes related to academic achievement goals will be set and disaggregated by all major sub groups; including race/ethnicity, socio-economic status (SES), English Learner status, and Special Education designations."
Measurable Pupil Outcome	Page 27	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:  "Pursuant to the transition to California's Common Core and the accompanying shift in the state accountability testing system, Aspire College Academy will establish baseline performance in the first year of testing administration and will demonstrate growth in performance each year thereafter."
Governance	Page 33	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:  "The School Aspire College Academy will comply with the District policy related to charter schools to the extent it aligns with and does not exceed the law applicable to charter schools, as it may be changed from time to time as long as the charter school has been given written notice of the policy change."
Student Admissions Policies and Procedures	Page 45	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:  Aspire College Academy will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and all other operations, and will not charge tuition nor discriminate on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).

	T	<del></del>
		As part of the Fall Information Update, Aspire College Academy will notify the District in writing of the application deadline and proposed lottery date. The School Aspire College Academy will ensure that all application materials will reference these dates as well as provide complete information regarding application procedures, key dates, and admissions preferences and requirements consistent with approved charter."
Public Records	Page 61	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The School Aspire College Academy acknowledges that pursuant to Article XVI section 8.5(e) of the California Constitution, sections 2(e), 6, and 8 of Proposition 98, and sections 33126.1(b), 35256(c), and 35258 of the Education Code require schools, including The School Aspire College Academy to provide certain information in certain formats in certain ways to the general public and specifically to parents of students at Aspire College Academy and of the District. Aspire College Academy further acknowledges that it has the obligation to provide all of such information to the District that is required by these referenced authorities in a timely manner so that the District may meet its obligations under those authorities as well. To the extent that there is information that the District has, but that Aspire College Academy does not have that Aspire College Academy needs in order to meet its obligations, the District shall provide the same to Aspire College Academy in a reasonably timely manner upon request."
Reporting and Accountability	Page 32	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"If Aspire College Academy does not test (i.e., STAR) with the District, Aspire College Academy hereby grants authority to the State of California to provide a copy of all test results directly to the District as well as the charter school.  Test results for the prior year, if not provided directly to the
		District by the State, will be provided by the charter school to the District no later than September 1 of each year."
External Reporting	Page 32	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"Aspire College Academy will maintain sufficient staff and systems including technology, required to ensure timely reporting necessary to comply with the law and to meet all reasonable inquiries from District and other authorized reporting agencies."
Governance Structure of the School	Pages 32	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
	n	CD

		"Aspire College Academy, in accordance with Education Code Section 47604.3, shall promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries, including but not limited to, inquiries regarding financial records, from the District and shall consult with the District regarding any such inquiries. The School Aspire College Academy acknowledges that it is subject to audit by OUSD if OUSD seeks an audit of Aspire College Academy, it shall assume all costs of such audit. This obligation for the District to pay for an audit only applies if the audit requested is specifically requested by the District and is not otherwise required to be completed by Aspire College Academy by law or charter provisions."
Governance Structure	Page 33	Add the following text and remove any text to the
		contrary:
		"Members of the School's Aspire College Academy's Governing Board, any administrators, managers or employees, and any other committees of the School shall at all times comply with federal and state laws, nonprofit integrity standards and OUSD's Charter School policies and regulations regarding ethics and conflicts of interest so long as such policies and regulations are not in conflict with any then-existing applicable statutes or regulations applicable to charter schools.
		The School Aspire College Academy and/or its non-profit corporation will be solely responsible for the debts and obligations of the charter school."
Addressing Parent Complaints	Page 35	Add the following text and remove any text to the
		contrary:
		The School Aspire College Academy will establish complaint procedures that address both complaints alleging discrimination or violations of law and complaints regarding other areas. Aspire College Academy will not, at any time, refer complaints to the District.
		The complaint procedures will include the clear information with respect to the response timeline of the school, whether the school's response will be in writing, the party identified to respond to complaints, the party identified and charged with making final decisions regarding complaints, and whether the final decision will be issued in writing. The procedures will also identify an ombudsperson for situations in which the school leader is the subject of the complaint. The complaint procedures will be clearly articulated in the school's student and family handbook or distributed widely.
		The School Aspire College Academy will designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) including any

		investigation of any complaint filed with The School Aspire
		College Academy alleging its noncompliance with these laws or alleging any actions which would be prohibited by these laws. The School Aspire College Academy will notify all its students and employees of the name, office address, and telephone number of the designated employee or employees.
		The School Aspire College Academy will adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action, which would be prohibited by Title IX, or Section 504.
		The School Aspire College Academy will implement specific and continuing steps to notify applicants for admission and employment, students and parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipient, that it does not discriminate on the basis of sex or mental or physical disability in the educational program or activity which it operates, and that it is required by Title IX and Section 504 not to discriminate in such a manner."
Health and Safety Procedures	Page 43	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The School Aspire College Academy shall occupy facilities that comply with the Asbestos requirement as cited in the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40CFR part 763. AHERA requires that any building leased or acquired that is to be used as a school or administrative building shall maintain an asbestos management plan."
Dispute Resolutions Procedures	Page 53	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The staff and Governing Board members of the School Aspire College Academy agree to attempt to resolve all disputes between the District and the School Aspire College Academy regarding this charter pursuant to the terms of this section. Both will refrain from public commentary regarding any disputes until the matter has progressed through the dispute resolution process.
		Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the charter agreement between the District and the School Aspire College Academy, except any controversy or claim that in any way related to revocation of this charter, shall be handled first through an informal process in accordance with the procedures set forth below.
		(1) Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the charter agreement, except any controversy or claim that in any way related to revocation of this charter, must be put in writing ("Written Notification") by the party asserting the

existence of such dispute. The Written Notification must identify the nature of the dispute and all supporting facts known to the party giving the Written Notification. The Written Notification may be tendered by personal delivery, by facsimile, or by certified mail. The Written Notification shall be deemed received (a) if personally delivered, upon date of delivery to the address of the person to receive such notice if delivered by 5:00 PM or otherwise on the business day following personal delivery; (b) if by facsimile, upon electronic confirmation of receipt; or (c) if by mail, two (2) business days after deposit in the U.S. Mail. All written notices shall be addressed as follows:

To Charter School, c/o School Director: Aspire College Academy

To Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools: Educational Center at Tilden 4551 Steele Street, Room 10 Oakland, California 94619

- (2) A written response ("Written Response") shall be tendered to the party providing the Written Notification within twenty (20) business days from the date of receipt of the Written Notification. The Written Response shall state the responding party's position on all issues stated in the Written *Notification and set forth all fact which the responding party* believes supports its position. The Written Response may be tendered by personal delivery, by facsimile, or by certified mail. The Written Response shall be deemed received (a) if personally delivered, upon date of delivery to the address of the person to receive such notice if delivered by 5:00p.m., or otherwise on the business day following personal delivery; (b) if by facsimile, upon electronic confirmation of receipt; or (c) if by mail, two (2) business days after deposit in the U.S. Mail. The parties agree to schedule a conference to discuss the claim or controversy ("Issue Conference"). The Issue Conference shall take place within fifteen (15) business days from the date the Written Response is received by the other party.
- (3) If the controversy, claim, or dispute is not resolved by mutual agreement at the Issue Conference, then either party may request that the matter be resolved by mediation. Each party shall bear its own costs and expenses associated with the mediation. The mediator's fees and the administrative fees of the mediation shall be shared equally among the parties. Mediation proceedings shall commence within 60 days from the date of the Issue Conference. The parties shall mutually agree upon the selection of a mediator to resolve the controversy or claim at dispute. If no agreement on a mediator is reached within 30 days after a request to mediate, the parties will use the processes and procedures of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") to have an arbitrator appointed...

		(4) If the mediation is not successful, the parties agree that
		each party has exhausted its administrative remedies and shall have any such recourse available by law
Suspension and Expulsion	Pages 49	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The School Aspire College Academy shall notify, within 30 days, the superintendent of the school district of any pupil who is expelled or leaves Aspire College Academy without graduating or completing the school year for any reason. The school district notified shall be determined by the pupil's last known address. The School Aspire College Academy shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including a transcript of grades or report card and health information, pursuant to Education Code Section 47605(d)(3)."
Suspension and Expulsion: Due Process for Students with Disabilities	Pages 49	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
<u>Disabilities</u>		"In the case of a special education student, or a student who receives 504 accommodations, the School Aspire College Academy will ensure that it makes the necessary adjustments to comply with the mandates of State and federal laws, including the IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Plan of 1973, regarding the discipline of students with disabilities. Prior to recommending expulsion for a Section 504 student or special education student, the charter administrator will convene a review committee to determine 1) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or 2) if the conduct in question was the direct result of the LEA's failure to implement the 504 plan or IEP. If it is determined that the student's misconduct was not caused by or had direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability or the conduct in question was not a direct result of the LEA's failure to implement the 504 plan or IEP, the student may be expelled."
Independent Fiscal Audits	Page 47	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"To the extent that the School Aspire College Academy is a recipient of federal funds, including federal Title I, Part A funds, the School Aspire College Academy has agreed to meet all of the programmatic, fiscal and other regulatory requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and other applicable federal grant programs. The School Aspire College Academy agrees that it will keep and make available to the District any documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and other applicable federal programs, including, but not limited to, documentation related to required parental notifications, appropriate credentialing of teaching and paraprofessional staff, where applicable, or any other

1		contrary:
District Fee for Oversight	Page 61	Add the following text and remove any text to the
		"If the School Aspire College Academy fails to submit a certificate of occupancy or other valid documentation to the District verifying that the intended facility in which the school will operate complies with Education Code Section 47610, not less than 30 days before the school is scheduled to begin operation pursuant to the first year of this renewal term, it may not commence operations unless an exception is made by the Office of Charter Schools and/or the local planning department or equivalent agency. If the School Aspire College Academy moves or expands to another facility during the term of this charter, the School Aspire College Academy shall provide a certificate of occupancy or other valid documentation to the District verifying that the intended facility in which the school will operate complies with Education Code Section 47610, to the District for each facility at least 30 days before school is scheduled to begin operations in the facility or facilities. The School Aspire College Academy shall not begin operation in any location for which it has failed to timely provide a certificate of occupancy to the District, unless an exception is made by the Office of Charter Schools and/or the local planning department or equivalent agency.  Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in this charter, the interpretation, application, and enforcement of this provision are not subject to the Dispute Resolution Process."
Facilities	Page 62	<ul> <li>requirements of NCLB include, but are not the limited to, the following:</li> <li>Notify parents at the beginning of each school year of their "right to know" the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher including a timely notice to each individual parent that the parent's child has been assigned, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.</li> <li>Develop jointly with, and distribute to, parents of participating children, a school-parent compact.</li> <li>Hold an annual Title I meeting for parents of participating Title I students.</li> <li>Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy.</li> <li>The School Aspire College Academy also understands that as part of its oversight of the school, the Office of Charter Schools may conduct program review of federal and state compliance issues."</li> <li>Add the following text and remove any text to the</li> </ul>

		"The District may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight of the School Aspire College Academy not to exceed 1% of the charter school's revenue, or the District may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight of the Charter School not to exceed 3% if the School Aspire College Academy is able to obtain substantially rent free facilities from the District. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District may charge the maximum supervisorial oversight fee allowed under the law as it may change from time to time."
Miscellaneous Charter-Related <u>Issues</u>	Page 59	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The School Aspire College Academy must submit its renewal petition to the Office of Charter Schools no earlier than 270 days before the charter is due to expire unless otherwise agreed by the Office of Charter Schools."
Miscellaneous Charter-Related <u>Issues</u>	Page 60	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The District may revoke the charter of the School Aspire College Academy in accordance with Education Code Section 47607.any successor provisions to section 47607, or other statutory provisions, if enacted after the date of the charter, regarding the revocation of charters.
Impact on Charter Authorizer	Page 64	In order to ensure the necessary oversight and review of mandated reports for which the authorizer must determine fiscal health and sustainability, the following schedule of reporting deadline to the District will apply each year of the term of this charter;
		o September 1 – Final Unaudited Financial Report for Prior Year
		<ul> <li>December 1 – Final Audited Financial Report for Prior</li> <li>Year</li> <li>December 1 – First Interim Financial Report for Current</li> </ul>
		Year  O March 1 – Second Interim Financial Report for Current Year  June 15 – Preliminary Budget for Subsequent Year
Impact on Charter Authorizer	Page 61	Add the following text and remove any text to the contrary:
		"The School Aspire College Academy agrees to observe and abide by the following terms and conditions as a requirement for receiving and maintaining their charter authorization:
		The School Aspire College Academy is subject to District oversight.

- The District's statutory oversight responsibility continues throughout the life of the charter and requires that it, among other things, monitor the fiscal condition of the School Aspire College Academy.
- The District is authorized to revoke this charter for, among other reasons, the failure of the Charter Aspire College Academy to meet generally accepted accounting principles or if it engages in fiscal mismanagement in accordance with Education Code Section 47607.

Accordingly, the District hereby reserves the right, at District cost, pursuant to its oversight responsibility, to audit the School Aspire College Academy books, records, data, processes and procedures through the Office of Charter Schools or other means. The audit may include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- Compliance with terms and conditions prescribed in the charter,
- Internal controls, both financial and operational in nature.
- The accuracy, recording and/or reporting of school financial information,
- *The school's debt structure,*
- Governance policies, procedures and history,
- The recording and reporting of attendance data,
- The school's enrollment process, suspension and expulsion procedures, and parent involvement practices,
- Compliance with safety plans and procedures, and
- Compliance with applicable grant requirements.

The School Aspire College Academy shall cooperate fully with such audits and to make available any and all records necessary for the performance of the audit upon 30 day's notice to the School Aspire College Academy. When 30 days notice may defeat the purpose of the audit, the District may conduct the audit upon 24 hour's notice.

In addition, if an allegation of waste, fraud or abuse related to the School Aspire College Academy operations is received by the District, the School Aspire College Academy shall be expected to cooperate with any investigation undertaken by the Office of Charter Schools, at District cost. This obligation for the District to pay for an audit only applies if the audit requested is specifically requested by the District and is not otherwise required to be completed by the School Aspire College Academy by law or charter provisions."

#### **ATTACHMENT III - CONDITIONS ON OPENING:**

The vast majority of these items are intended to be "one time" submissions for new schools. Only those items marked with an asterisk (\*) are intended to be updated annually. **Please pay careful attention to the due date for all conditions on opening.** All items listed are to either be emailed on or before the due date to <a href="mailto:silke.bradford@ousd.k12.ca.us">silke.bradford@ousd.k12.ca.us</a> and cc'd to <a href="mailto:guadalupe.navarro@ousd.k12.ca.us">guadalupe.navarro@ousd.k12.ca.us</a> or hand-delivered to the OUSD Office of Charter Schools at 4551 Steele Street, Room 10, Oakland, CA 94619. *Hand-delivered items must receive a receipt from the Office of Charter Schools to ensure verification of timely submission*.

Charter Revision				
Friday, June 28, 2013		Submit to the District's Office of Charter Schools one hard copy and one electronic copy in <u>MS Word</u> format of a <b>Track Changes</b> version of the revised charter, as well as a <b>Final Text</b> version of the revised petition to include all revisions outlined in the charter approval.		
Enrollment Policies and Application for Admission				
Monday, July 15, 2013		Submit list of enrolled studentsincluding name, DOB, prior school, home language, Oakland residency or not, and CSIS number (list to be updated fall 2013 and annually) using Excel template provided by the Office of Charter Schools.*		
Complaint Procedures				
Thursday, August 1, 2013		Submit current Board-approved Uniform Complaint Process, posting location(s), and method of notifying parents of this annually.		
Student Learning Time				
Thursday, August 1, 2013		Submit certification of instructional minutes to be provided in 2012-2013.* Carefully read <i>Education Code §46201(a)(3)</i> . [instructional minutes requirement]		
		Submit updated, adopted 12-month school calendar distinguishing dates with standard or reduced instructional time, and noting vacation days.*		
Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and Recommended Policies				
Thursday, August 1, 2013		Submit Student and Family Handbook.* (Prepare student/family handbook and registration materialsto include the enrollment schedule, school calendar, all policies and procedures pertaining to health and safety, homework, attendance, discipline, suspension and expulsions, parent complaint proceduresin all languages as distributed.)		
Insurance Policies				
Monday, July 15, 2013		Submit evidence of commercial general liability insurance for not less than \$1,000,000 per incident; to include the District as additionally insured.		
		Submit evidence of fidelity bond coverage for not less than \$50,000 per occurrence and workers' compensation insurance.		
Financial Organization				
Thursday, May 30, 2013		Submit copy of the school's Annual Information Sheet & Funding Survey" to the CDE (plus annual filings to be provided to CDE by June 1 and any updates in future years).		
School Facility and Building Safety				
Thursday, August 1, 2013		Make available for inspection a current Fire Inspection Certificate.		
		Submit Board-approved Drug, Alcohol, and Smoke Free Environment Policies and Procedures.		
		Submit current Facilities Safety and Evacuation Plan.		
Special Education Program Plan				
Monday, July 1, 2013.		Submit proof of membership in El Dorado County SELPA.		
		Submit adopted 504 plan, policy, and procedures.		
		Submit Special Education Identification and Assessment Plan.		

Budget and Cash Flow			
Thursday, August 1,		Submit 2 paper copies, in addition to an electronic version of an updated and revised	
2013		cash flow statement and 3-year projections.	
School Health Plan and Medications Administration Plan			
Thursday, August 1,		Submit updated School Health Plan (to comply with immunization audit, hearing	
2013		and vision screening requirements) and Medications Administration Plan.	
Instructional Staff			
Thursday, August 1, 2013	_	Submit a list of teachers hired, including name, DOB, assignments, subject matter certification and credential evidence, qualification to teach ELL students, evidence of current clear tuberculosis test, date of fingerprinting, and date of background review.*	
		Submit current employee handbook, including policies and procedures that ensure the health and safety of students and staff.	
		Submit list of teachers requiring Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment.	
Programming Plans			
Thursday, August 1,		Submit English Learner Plan: adopted policies and procedures that pertain to use of	
2013		a home language survey and mandatory CELDT testing.	